

REMARKS

The Amendments of the Claims

Claims 18 and 20-30 and 32 are pending in the above-referenced application. The Office Action mailed January 10, 2008 has rejected claims 18, 20-30, and 32. More specifically and in accordance with the items therein, the Office Action has:

1. Rejected claims 20-30 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wang (U.S. 5,908,126);
2. Rejected claim 18 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chollet (U.S. 5,065,914) in view of Beckmann (U.S. 2,511,560);
3. Indicated that claim 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims;
4. Indicated that Applicant's previous arguments with respect to claims 20-30 and 32 are moot in view of the rejection over Wang; and
5. Indicated that Applicant's previous arguments with respect to claim 18 are moot in view of the rejection over Chollet and Beckmann.

Applicants have revised claim 31 to include the limitations of the base claim 22 and the intervening claim 30. In the process, Applicants have modified the portion of the base claim 22 included in claim 31 to make this portion of the claim clearer. The modifications are set forth below for the examiner's convenience.

22. Granule distributing apparatus which comprises
a container having a discharge opening for a product to be distributed[[,
wherein]]:
a duct connector[[is]] attached to said container over said discharge
opening, [[said]]:
a duct member carried by the duct connector[[carrying a duct member]]
and connected to said discharge opening,
said duct member providing a distribution channel for said
product,
said duct member being foldable between a working position in
which[[it]]said duct member projects away from said container and allows
passage of product through said discharge opening and along said distribution
channel, and a storage position in which said duct member obturates said

discharge opening and extends over a top of said container[[, said apparatus further comprising]]; and

a locking member [[which]]that is manipulatable to locate said duct member in said working position and prevent relative releasing movement between said duct connector and container.

Applicants believe that the modified base claim is the same as the original base claim. Applicantw have incorporated these modifications into the revised claim 31, which also includes the limitations of claims 22 and 30.

Additionally, Applicants have canceled claims 22 and 30 and changed the dependencies of the remaining claims to depend from revised claim 31 without prejudice or surrender of subject matter.

Conclusion

Claims 18, 20-21, 23-29 and 32 are believed to satisfy all of the criteria for patentability and are in condition for allowance. An early indication of the same is therefore kindly requested.

No fees beyond the extension of time fees are believed to be due in connection with this Amendment. However, the Director is authorized to charge any additional fees that may required, or credit any overpayment, to Dechert LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2778 (**Order No. 375591-00121 (353251)**)).

Respectfully submitted,

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